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Thursday, February 7, 2013

EID-National: EPA data show 66 percent drop in methane emissions from oil and natural gas (2/7)

NATIONAL

Eagle Ford Shale going full speed ahead. Corpus Christi Caller Times. The Eagle Ford Shale oil and gas boom is showing no signs of letting up, lawmakers and officials heard Wednesday at the Capitol. And West Texas could be next, one representative has said.

EID sets the record straight on HF at Ohio forum. Athens News. Shawn Bennett, a spokesperson for group Energy in Depth in Ohio, said he believes the University of Colorado report is flawed in multiple ways. Bennett said the sampling was done "about a mile downwind of I-70," and that much of the VOC volume found could have been coming from auto exhausts. He also noted that Colorado passed more stringent regulations on VOCs in 2010, so that the data from the study may already be obsolete.

Health Rally opposing HF. WICZ 40. The activists criticized Cuomo for what they call a secret health review. But according to Energy In Depth, health stats from communities surrounding the Barnett Shale in Texas show rates of cancer, heart and respiratory disease decreased from 2000-2008, possibly due in part to revenue from drilling giving more people access to health care.

EPA Pavillion Report. Pindale Roundup (sub req'd). The EPA knows its draft report is deeply flawed, because it's been criticized by the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, the USGS and Wyoming's Department of Environmental Quality, as well as scientists and engineering experts from the oil and gas industry. In fact the only state or federal agency that's saying the EPA did a good job in Pavillion is the EPA," Simon Lomax, research director for Denver-based Energy In Depth (EID), said. Lomax continued to add that instead of doing the responsible thing and withdrawing the draft report, the EPA is dragging out the process to avoid the embarrassing questions it will face from a peer-review panel.

Drill, Dude, Drill. Fox And Hounds Daily. As we've seen in states like North Dakota, with its Bakken Shale, fracking can bring an immediate boom to an area previously desperately in need of one. But before we even have a chance to sharpen the drill bits, California's powerful environmental community is revving up its significant lobbying operation to try and prevent the black gold from coming to the surface.

Valero CEO touts company's advantages. Houston Chronicle. Klesse, who provided a company update at the Credit Suisse Energy Summit in Colorado, said Valero is taking advantage of growing U.S. shale oil production, including from the Eagle Ford Shale and Canada.

Jude Law, Matt Damon Bring Fracking, Drug Drama to Berlin. Bloomberg. Damon persuades American farmers to give up their land for fracking -- drilling for gas -- in Gus Van Sant's environmental drama "Promised Land," competing with 18 other movies for the Golden Bear award at the festival opening today.

FRACKNATION

New Film An Answer to 'Gasland'. Epoch Times. In "FrackNation," McAleer systematically picks apart the message from "Gasland" that fracking is unsafe and harming families and drinking water in Pennsylvania. He even ventures to Russia to explore how the former Soviet Bloc may be involved in drumming up opposition to fracking in order to keep Russia as the leading gas exporter in the world.

INTERNATIONAL

Gas company issue HF monitoring pledge. Blackpool Gazette. Chief executive Francis Egan, said: "This technology has been recommended by scientific, academic and industry experts. Cuadrilla is committed to working to and establishing best-practice standards."

Exploration for shale gas was given Lithuania back in 2003. Baltic Course. The Seimas' Committee on Environment Protection has suggested the Government to stop exploring and extracting shale gas in Lithuania until relevant European Union's institutions

submit their opinion on the use of this resource. However, it seems that the Cabinet is not even going to take into account this decision, informs LETA/ELTA, referring to the daily Respublika.

Shale gas industry under study by Quebec. CBC. Environment Minister Yves-François Blanchet said the BAPE is best positioned to determine the potential impact of "fracking" in populated areas where ground water could be affected. NOTE: Financial Post also reports.

PQ puts shale-gas development in St. Lawrence Valley on hold. Globe and Mail. When the National Assembly resumes sitting next week, Environment Minister Yves-François Blanchet will table legislation that will ban the awarding of exploration licences and suspend those already granted.

Lithuania Lawmakers Urge Probe of Chevron Unit, Shale-Gas Freeze. Bloomberg. A Lithuanian parliamentary committee called for a moratorium on shale-gas exploration in the Baltic nation as well as a legal investigation of a local company that's half owned by Chevron Corp.

COLORADO

Post's "Top Thinkers" award to Erie Rising is unjustified. Denver Post. Erie Rising had every opportunity to join Boulder's elected officials and decent people everywhere in denouncing these extreme intimidation tactics. Instead, one of the group's founding members penned an opinion piece endorsing the behavior.

NORTHEAST

New York's HF Health Review Should Be Released To Public, Lawmakers Say. Associated Press. A coalition of 65 state lawmakers is asking New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo to release the Department of Environmental Conservation's review of potential health impacts of shale gas drilling for public comment before deciding whether to allow drilling to begin. NOTE: Newsday also reports.

HF debate rages. Daily Advertiser. The state may miss a key deadline in its analysis of hydraulic fracturing if the Department of Health recommends new safety measures, New York's top environmental regulator said Monday.

Company adapts for shale gas industry. Altoona Mirror. "As active members of the Marcellus Shale Coalition, we wanted to bring our sign production experience and dedication to the unconventional gas business to help E&P [exploration and production] operating companies be proactive when it came to Act 9," Troy Beaver said.

After dismissing drilling concerns, N.Y. orders analysis. E&E News (sub req'd). Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) chief Joe Martens told legislators earlier this week that the state had hired a university geologist to study whether drilling in New York's piece of the Marcellus Shale could trigger quakes.

Md. delegate to introduce HF moratorium bill. Associated Press. Del. Heather Mizeur plans to introduce the bill on Thursday. Opponents of the drilling technique also known as hydraulic fracturing plan to join her at a news conference.

HF study geologist draws critics. Buffalo News. A University at Buffalo geologist picked by the state to study the links between hydraulic fracturing and earthquakes is now coming under scrutiny for his ties to the oil and gas industry.

County officials concerned about the impacts HF could have. Troy Record. Upstate officials opposed to hydrofracking went to the Capitol Wednesday to complain that approval of the controversial gas drilling industry will be a costly unfunded mandate on rural communities.

Both Sides Gear Up Awaiting Decision on HF. FOX 40. "You know that Ohio took care of this entire regulatory process in eight months and New York and this governor can't get it done in four-and-a-half years. There's something wrong if that's the case. Someone is not doing their job," said attorney Scott Kurkoski of the Joint Landowners Coalition of New York.

OHIO

Portman, Chamber, OOGA to host Energy Jobs Fair. Youngstown Business Journal. "Northeast Ohio is at the forefront of cutting edge technology, particularly in the field of oil and natural gas development," said Portman, R-Ohio. "As production in the Utica ramps up, companies will need to fill thousands of skilled positions. This career fair will connect Ohioans with potential employers and enable us to take full advantage of this great natural resource."

Athens County can't afford to say no thanks to good oil & jobs. Athens News, LTE. People desperately need jobs now. If drilling for oil and natural gas will provide these jobs, then I would expect my elected officials to do everything possible to bring those jobs to Athens County.

Public outcry continues over Hard Rock's dumping in Youngstown. Youngstown Vindicator. Backlash over Hard Rock Excavating's decision to dump thousands of gallons of fracking waste into a storm drain continued Wednesday with sharp criticism of both state law and the oil and gas industry.

Permits issued for Trumbull, Columbiana counties. Youngstown Business Journal. The Ohio Department of Natural Resources has issued a new horizontal drilling permit to Halcon Resources Inc. for a well in Lordstown Township in Trumbull County, according to records.

HF 'Unlikely' in Kent City Limits. The Patch. Dan Schweitzer, chairperson of the Kent Sustainability Commission, presented the group's recommendations to council for addressing the issue after spending the past several months studying the practice.

EMG putting another \$450 million into Ohio shale venture with MarkWest Energy. Columbus Business First. Houston investment firm Energy & Minerals Group is increasing its stake by another \$450 million in a joint venture with Denver's MarkWest Energy Partners LP (NYSE:MWE) to support the Utica shale play in eastern Ohio.

Medina not ideal place for hydraulic fracturing. Cleveland Plain Dealer. Medina is not the ideal place for hydraulic fracturing according to a panel of speakers at a Special Legislation Committee meeting Jan. 31.

Petitions filed for Citizens Bill of HF Rights. Youngstown Business Journal. The petition secured 3,792 signatures, well beyond the 2,836 required to place the measure before City Council and on the ballot, Beiersdorfer said.

TEXAS

Oxy capitalizing on shale gas, building TX ethylene plant. Gas Business Briefing (sub req'd). Occidental Petroleum's Occidental Chemical has applied to the Environmental Protection Agency to construct a 1.2bn-pound/year ethylene plant near Ingleside, Texas, making OxyChem the latest company to propose new capacity for the region to take advantage of shale gas supplies.

Largest oil producers in the Eagle Ford Shale, slideshow. San Antonio Business Journal. The San Antonio Business Journal has devoted a great deal of coverage to Eagle Ford Shale, a geologic formation that spans some 24 counties. A University of Texas at San Antonio Institute for Economic Development study released last year found that the Eagle Ford Shale contributed some \$25 billion in economic impact to the South Texas region in 2011.

The shale slide. Denton Record Chronicle. Year-end statistics on the state's oil and gas production are starting to trickle out from the Texas Railroad Commission. Gas production in Denton and Wise Counties, where the Barnett Shale boon was born, continues to drop.

Howard Midstream developing \$100 million Eagle Ford Shale gas complex. San Antonio Business Journal. Howard Midstream Energy Partners LLC will build a new cryogenic natural gas plant in Webb County, Texas that will serve gas producers in the Olmos, Escondido and Eagle Ford Shale play.

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